

MEMORIAL DAY 1917



HEROES of OLD,
WE HUMBL Y LAY
THE LAUREL ON
YOUR GRAVES
AGAIN;

WHATEVER MEN
HAVE DONE MEN
MAY — THE DEEDS
YOU WROUGHT ARE
NOT IN VAIN !

THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

FLOWERS for the dead, who are not dead,
but live,
And shall forever live in splendid fame;
Who deemed a life a little thing to give
To save a nation from undying shame.

Aye, heap their graves with flowers. With
bated breath
Pay tribute to the men who died to save.
But drop no tears. Life has no boon like
death
When honor leads the hero to the grave.
—David A. Curtis.

WHO THINKS OF YOU?

A Memorial Day Poem.

The following verses were printed
nearly twenty years ago in the Sunday
Telegraph of Milwaukee. The battle
of Prairie Grove was fought Dec. 7,
1863:

THEY are gathering garlands
and wreaths today
To deck the mounds o'er the
slumbering dead,
And the hands of children these gifts
will lay
Tenderly down to the words that are
said—
Words that tell of the men that
marched
When roused by the bugle's blast, "To
arms!"
When war's red cloud our heavens
arched,
With the spring air pregnant with
death's alarms.
Wreaths and garlands today they
strew,
But, Tommie, old fellow, who thinks of
you?

On the edge of the meadow at Prairie
Grove,
Tucked in your blanket, we lowered
you down,
The wreaths the chill blast of Decem-
ber wore
Were crisp, dead leaves from old win-
ter's gown.
How they danced and frisked on your
rustic bed
As it gathered to shelter your place of
rest!
Guarding your bunk from the enemy's
tread,
Whose heel might traverse your wound-
ed breast.
We gave you a grave, but left never a
clue,
My old dead comrade, to remind us of
you.

Who thinks of you now as I'm think-
ing today,
Remembering as on to the front we
sped?
Who thought at that time of a thir-
tieth of May
Or garlands and flowers for the boys

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When dead?
With a whoop we charged, our blades
ringing high,
With a groan you reeled from your
charger's back.
You dropped on that wintry field to
die,
While we held close to the enemy's
track.
The field was ours. We won, 'tis true,
But Death stood solemn 'twixt me and
you.
I think of you often, again and again,
When my mind turns back to the years
long gone.
I see the spot where we buried you,
slain,
A grave without mound, without
wreath, unknown.
So my heart weaves a wreath out of
memory's thread.
I'll wait it to you with my love and
my lay,
It is merely a line, but it shall not be
said
That my thoughts passed you by on
Memorial day.
Memorial day, old boy, if you knew,
How often today I've been thinking of
you.

NEUTRAL GROUND IN '61-'65.

Both Union and Confederate Respected
Mount Vernon.
Much has been written in recent
years of that shot torn strip of land—
neutral land—no man's land, between
the trenches in western France. We
are accustomed to think of such a
strip of land as peculiar to the great
European war, but there was during
our own civil war just one neutral
spot, one spot where northern Yankee
and southern soldier laid aside their
arms unbidden and met as brothers of
a common father. This was on the
banks of the beautiful Potomac, as is
recited by Paul Willstach in "Mount
Vernon, Washington's Home and the
Nation's Shrine."
"During the civil war Mount Vernon
was by spontaneous consent of those
on both sides of the great contest the
only neutral ground in the country.
Soldiers were requested to leave their
arms outside the gates, which they did,
and men in blue and men in gray met
fraternally before the tomb of the fa-
ther of their divided country."

FOR LOVE OF THE FLAG.

**It Led and Inspired the Brave Men
Who Saved the Union.**
Blessed is that country whose sol-
diers fight for it and are willing to
give the best they have, the best that
any man has—their own lives—to pre-
serve it because they love it, said the
late President William McKinley. Such
an army the United States has always
commanded in every crisis of her his-
tory. From the war of the Revolution
to the late civil war the men followed
that flag in battle because they loved
that flag and believed in what it repre-
sented.
That was the stuff of which the
volunteer army of '61 was made. Ev-
ery one of them not only fought, but
thought. And many of them did their
own thinking and did not always agree
with their commander. A young sol-
dier in the late war was on the battle
line ahead with the color guard, bear-
ing the stars and stripes way in front
of the line, but the enemy still in front
of him. The general called out to the
color bearer, "Bring those colors back
to the line!" and quicker than any bul-
let that young soldier answered back,
"Bring the line up to the colors!" It
was the voice of command; there was
a man behind it, and there was patri-
otism in his heart.
So rich is grandeur to our dust,
So near is glory to man,
When duty whispers low, "Thou must,"
The youth replies, "I can."
And so more than 2,000,000 brave
men thus responded and made up an
army grander than any army that ever
shook the earth with its tread and en-
gaged in a holier cause than ever en-
gaged soldiers before.

A Left Handed Compliment.
He—A handsome woman smiled at
me yesterday. She—Well, it is possible
for even a handsome woman to have a
sense of the ridiculous.

The Steelyard.
The steelyard, a simple weighing de-
vice that is still in vogue, was used by
the Romans in 315 B. C.

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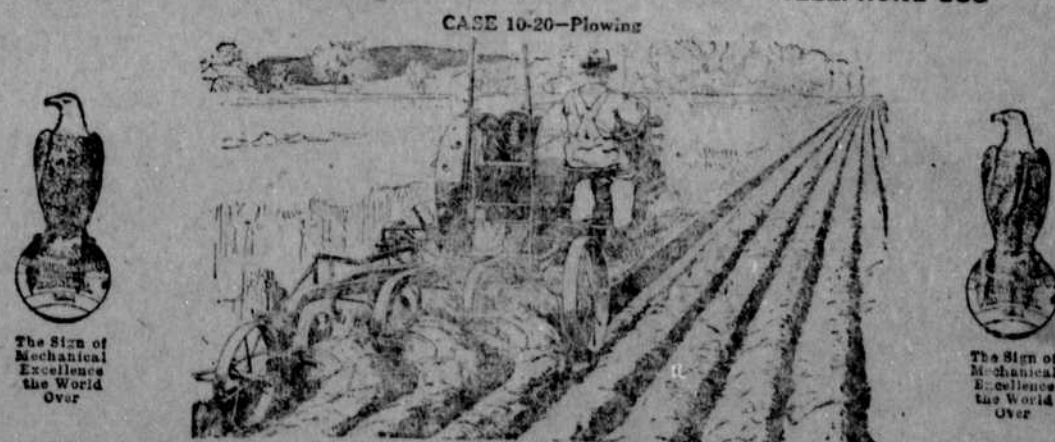
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MEMORIAL OR DECORATION?

Difference Between Two Names of
Commemoration Day Explained.

The difference between Memorial day and Decoration day was thus defined by Hon. B. H. Blackburn in the Atlanta Journal: Memorial day, he explained, was of southern origin and was adopted two years before Decoration day was adopted in the north. The manner in which the idea originated Mr. Blackburn related as follows: "A number of ladies representing the Soldiers' Aid society of Columbus, Ga., visited on March 12, 1866, Linwood cemetery to give a spring dressing to the graves of Confederate soldiers. While attending this duty they ob-

served the little daughter of Mrs. Williams gathering wild flowers and placing them on the graves of the unknown Confederate dead. Thus the immortal suggestion of organized remembrance was given to these loyal southern women by the inherent patriotism of a little child.

"On returning to their homes these true southern women decided that day to organize the first Memorial association that was instituted in the south, and with a view to making it general Mrs. Mary Ann Howard Williams gave her name and the names of her associates to glory by addressing a letter to the Columbus Times, which will ever remain a part of the imperishable service."